

CONSERVATION ELEMENT

GOAL I: TO PROMOTE PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

Objective A: The City of Freeport shall protect air quality by the continuous monitoring and enforcement of the adopted Land Development Code which contains specific measures for air quality protection.

Policy A.1: Streets shall be maintained at the level of service specified in the Traffic Circulation Element (See Goals, Objectives, and Policies) to ensure flow of traffic, reducing negative impacts on air quality.

Policy A.2: Industrial uses shall be limited to areas designated for industrial use as shown on the Future Land Use Map and described within the Future Land Use Element. Performance standards for industrial uses as stated in the Land Development Code shall be enforced.

Objective B: The City of Freeport shall protect water resources by the continuous monitoring and enforcement of the adopted Land Development Code and by complying with the applicable policies of the Northwest Florida Water Management District, Florida Administrative Code.

Policy B.1: Applicable water permits shall be obtained from the Northwest Florida Water Management District as required.

Policy B.2: The standards set in the Land Development Code for streams without established base flood elevations and/or floodways shall be enforced.

Policy B.3: The City shall cooperate with the Northwest Florida Management District in the event of Declaration of Water Resources Concern, as established in Rule 40A-2, 801, 802, Florida Administrative Code.

Objective C: The City of Freeport shall conserve and protect soils and vegetative communities existing within the City by enforcement of the adopted Land Development Code which includes performance standards for development.

Policy C.1: Soil conservation practices shall be outlined in the Land Development Code, as suggested by the U.S. Department of

Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, as part of the performance standards for development.

Policy C.2: Conservation practices regarding vegetative communities will be established and included in performance standards for development in the Land Development Code.

Objective D: **The City of Freeport shall protect the wildlife and wildlife habitat within the City by the enforcement of the adopted Land Development Code which includes protective measures with the performance standards for development.**

Policy D.1: Designated environmentally sensitive lands shall be protected based on locally determined criteria to be included in the Land Development Code.

Policy D.2: Nuisance, hazardous, or unsanitary conditions shall be controlled by enforcement of performance standards and level of service standards stated in the Comprehensive Plan and in the Land Development Code.

Objective E: **The City of Freeport shall protect environmentally sensitive resources by limiting development within and adjacent to those resources.**

Policy E.1: Protected environmentally sensitive areas shall include wetland and shoreline habitat.

Policy E.2: Wetlands will be protected through the establishment of Wetland Protection Zones. These zones shall include areas within the wetland regulatory jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and may also include areas within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Policy E.3: Shoreline habitat shall be protected through the establishment of Shoreline Protection Zones. These zones shall include that area from the point in waters where no emergent aquatic vegetation can grow landward to a point fifty (50) feet landward of the water's edge.

Policy E.4: No development activity shall be undertaken in Wetland Protections Zones or Shoreline Protection Zones, with the exception of:

- (a) activities presumed to have an insignificant adverse affect on the protected areas; and
- (b) water dependent activities.

Examples of activities presumed to have an insignificant adverse affect include, but are not limited to, wildlife preserves, cleared walking trails, wood piling bridges, and minor clearing of shoreline vegetation, and all activities in the Wetland Protection Zone and Shoreline Protection Zone shall be similar in extent and impact to these examples. Water dependent activities shall be designed, constructed, maintained and undertaken in a way that minimizes the adverse impact on the beneficial functions of the affected environmentally sensitive zone.

Policy E.5: When development cannot occur without degrading wetlands, the impacts shall be mitigated at a minimum ratio of replacement to destroyed wetlands of 1.5:1.